**1. Motivate**

When have you seen a simple fix turn into a major project?

* change the oil on the car

A video introduction to the lesson is available. View it at <http://tinyurl.com/bdhpw3ne> If you have no wi-fi where you teach, it is best to download the video file to your computer from <http://tinyurl.com/yjuwbt4u>

* fix a flat
* repair a hole in wallboard
* plant a shrub beside the house
* prune a bush in the garden
* check the spelling for a child’s essay
* change a lightbulb in a lamp
* update the operating system on your phone or computer

**2. Transition**

Imperfections we see are often indicators of a greater issue.

* Problems we encounter in life can be the direct or indirect result of the issue of sin.
* Through His miracles and teaching, Jesus pointed us to the solution, a relationship with God

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Jesus Brings Healing

Listen for the demographic of the crowd.

Luke 6:17-19 (NIV) He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coast of Tyre and Sidon, 18 who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by evil spirits were cured, 19 and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

Who are at least three groupings of people Jesus encountered?

* large crowd of his disciples
* great number of people from all around
* people who needed healing
* people troubled by evil spirits

What contemporary groups resemble the ones Jesus spoke to in this sermon? For what different reasons are people interested in Jesus Christ in our times?

* church people come to worship regularly
* visitors to the church
* people with physical problems
* people with emotional, relational problems
* people in bondage to substance abuse

In Luke’s description of this event, what words or phrases tell us how Jesus’s healing power was conveyed to bring about healing?

* people tried even just to touch Him or His clothes
* power was coming from Him
* it says “all” were being healed

How does this demonstrate Jesus’ power?

* all it required was a touch
* didn’t have to do some deed to earn the healing
* the people who reached out trusted that He had the power to heal
* they believed that the Object of their faith (Jesus) had that power
* the strength of their faith depended on the Object of their faith

How does this demonstrate Jesus’ compassion?

* Jesus was not miserly in manifesting His healing power
* “all” who came and believed he could heal were helped
* no mention of whether or not they deserved to be healed
* no mention of really sick or just not feeling well
* included simple and difficult maladies

The passage highlights the importance of proximity to Jesus for receiving healing. How can we draw near to Jesus in our own lives?

* separate yourself from outside influences
* turn off the TV, or go to another room where the TV is not heard
* turn off your phone
* read God’s Word
* think about what you are reading, don’t just let the words go by
* talk to Jesus … assume He is in the room with you … actually, He IS

What words of hope that Jesus offers can we share with our circle of acquaintances?

* when we pray, Jesus hears us and answers
* Jesus has power, authority, and love for us to work in our situation
* God heals emotionally as well as physically
* Jesus *wants* us to come to Him with our burdens

3.2 Joy and Favor with God

Listen for spiritual problems.

Luke 6:20-23 (NIV) Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 21 Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. 22 Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. 23 "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets.

How do you define the word “blessed”?

* special, set apart, approved
* it is a declaration of fact
* it is the state or condition of the disciple of Jesus
* truly happy
* distinctive joy that comes only from God
* not a conditional feeling based on positive circumstances

In the four beatitudes Luke recorded, who were the blessed ones and what blessed state was promised to them?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Blessed Ones | Blessed State Promised |
| * poor
* hungry
* weeping
* hated by others
 | * receive the kingdom (rule) of God
* be satisfied
* laughter, joy
* great reward in heaven
 |

How have you experienced the joy of following Jesus, even in seasons of difficulty? How would you describe being blessed by God?

* see God provide when finances were low
* God makes a new job available
* encouraged, even when in the hospital
* protection in dangerous situations
* wisdom to accomplish a responsibility
* experience growth and improvement of a skill or ability
* answers to prayers for spiritual, emotional needs of a loved one
* joy in the midst of trials

Jesus pronounces blessings on the poor, hungry, and those who weep, implying a contrast with the rich, well-fed, and those who laugh now. How do these blessings challenge common societal values and notions of success?

* you don’t have to be rich, well-fed, and always full of laughs
* you can have a satisfying life without those things
* your satisfaction and joy will be based on your relationship with Jesus
* the implication is that you will experience real joy with Jesus and might not have a lot of material wealth
* true joy depends on faith in and submission to Jesus

The Beatitudes highlight the importance of humility, compassion, and reliance on God. How can we cultivate these virtues in our own lives?

* submit to God’s rule in your life
* you might not normally have compassion on your own
* allow God to work through you to demonstrate the Fruit of the Spirit … love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control

3.3 Love as Jesus Loves

Listen for Jesus’ expectations for treating enemies.

Luke 6:27-31 (NIV) "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. 30 Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

What different kinds of mistreatment did Jesus refer to in His commands? What actions does He say we are to take in each case?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Mistreatment | Response |
| * an enemy
* hate you
* curse you
* mistreat you
 | * show love
* do good
* bless them
* pray for them
 |

What’s your natural reaction to Jesus’ commands in these verses? How do you think most people in our culture would react to Jesus’ teaching in these verses?

* that’s crazy
* easy for someone to say, much harder to do
* that “enemy” will do me in if I don’t stand up to him/her/it
* why has God placed me in such an impossible situation?
* that person’ doesn’t deserve a blessing or a kind prayer

What does it mean to "bless those who curse you"?

* don’t respond in kind
* instead, do something nice for them
* be a blessing to them … help them,
* encourage them when they do good (positive reinforcement, in contrast to trying to punish them for their ill treatment which is negative reinforcement)
* ignore the ill treatment, the “cursing”

What practical steps can we take to put these into action? How is it possible to do what Jesus expects?

* like Jesus said, pray for them – early and often in the relationship
* pray God’s blessing on them (don’t pray God’s judgment)
* may be possible to avoid them
* go out of your way to do something nice for this person
* make every effort to speak kindly to them
* avoid bad mouthing them to others

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Commit to Pray.

* Who in your life is difficult to love right now?
* Commit to prayi ng specifically for them each day this week.
* Ask God to help you love that person and to demonstrate love to them.

Commit to Memory.

* Commit Ephesians 5:1-2 to memory this week. *Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God*

Commit to Action.

* In a journal, perform an audit of your time and expenses this week.
* Based on that audit, reflect on your own personal values.
* Based on what you have learned about yourself, how do you personally define “blessing”?
* Write out some ways those actions need to change to bring your definition in line with that of Jesus

Crossword Puzzle
Clues and Words taken from Luke 6:17 – 23; 27 – 31 (NIV)



Help and other Fun Family Activities at <http://tinyurl.com/yjuwbt4u>